UNITED NATIONS

A

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed decisions 3 and 13 of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States on the rules of procedure and the provisional agenda for the Conference, and decided to transmit them to the Conference for adoption. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned resolution.

I. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

2. In its resolution 48/193, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should take place from 25 April to 6 May 1994 in Barbados, with pre-Conference consultations to take place at the same venue on 24 April. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach final agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, including the election of officers, the composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts in the General Committee among regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference. It is proposed that the pre-Conference consultations should be conducted under the chairmanship of the head of the delegation of the host country.

* A/CONF.167/1.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.167/2) provides that:

> "The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, nine Vice-Presidents plus an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."

4. Pursuant to rules 6 and 11, the Conference would thus have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice the Presidency of the Conference would go to the host country.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. The Conference will have before it the provisional rules of procedure which the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193, decided to transmit to the Conference for adoption. The provisional rules of procedure as revised at the resumed first session of the Preparatory Committee, are contained in document A/CONF.167/2.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The provisional agenda for the Conference is contained in document A/CONF.167/1.

V. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Organization of work

7. The organization of work for the Conference will be dealt with at the pre-Conference consultations. The Conference will have before it a proposed timetable for the work of the Conference, in which it is being suggested that the organization of work for the Conference should be as follows:

(a) The Plenary would hold a general debate between 25 April and 2 May;

(b) The Main Committee would meet from 26 April to 4 May;

(c) The high-level segment of the Conference is to take place on 5 and 6 May.

B. Allocation of items

8. It is proposed that items 1 to 8 and 9 (a) and 10 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meeting, and that item 9 (b) be allocated to the Main Committee, which will submit a report to the Plenary upon the conclusion of its work.

C. General debate

9. The general debate will take place from the afternoon of 25 April to 2 May. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once in the general debate. A time-limit of 12 minutes will be established for statements by representatives of Governments, 10 minutes for representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, organizations and programmes and intergovernmental organizations, and 7 minutes for all other statements.

D. Establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

10. The Main Committee of the Conference will meet from 26 April to 4 May. Its Chairman will be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. In accordance with the provisions of rule 50, the Main Committee will elect its own officers, with the exception of the Chairman. It is proposed that the Main Committee elect four Vice-Chairmen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, one of whom would be designated to assume the additional functions of Rapporteur. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

11. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

F. Organization of meetings

12. The resources available to the Conference permit the holding of a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with

interpretation facilities. Such meetings could include meetings of committees, subcommittees, working groups or informal consultations. In addition, provisions have been made for the holding of evening meetings, as required. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional or interest-group meetings only when they are held in place of formal meetings.

13. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may also set up subcommittees and working groups. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

14. Meetings shall normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled times.

VI. CONCLUDING EVENTS (HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT) OF THE CONFERENCE

15. Upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the following arrangements have been made for the concluding events (High-level segment) of the Conference:

(a) The high-level segment should be open to participation at the head of State or Government or ministerial level. It should last for one-and-a-half days, from the morning of Thursday, 5 May, through the morning of Friday, 6 May. Thursday will be devoted to a debate on the theme "Forging partnerships for sustainable development". Statements in the debate during the high-level segment should be limited to seven minutes;

(b) It is the intention of the host country to organize a roundtable for participants in the high-level segment on the morning of 6 May, and the President of the Conference would be invited to report to the Conference on the results of the high-level segment and the roundtable in the form of a presidential summary prepared under his own authority.

VII. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

16. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that there shall be a Credentials Committee of nine members appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session.

17. At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of the following States: Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America.

VIII. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

18. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference and the proceedings, and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken on its recommendations in plenary meetings.

19. As has also been the practice, it is recommended that each regional group be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General and two persons to serve as friends of the rapporteur of the Main Committee, to assist those officials in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Sunday, 24 April

a.m. and p.m.		Pre-Conference consultations

First week (25-29 April)

Plenary

Monday, 25 April

p.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7 a/	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Item 8 b/	Opening of the general debate
	Item 9 (a)	Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration c/
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)

Wednesday, 27 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 8	

Thursday, 28 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Friday, 29 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Second week (2-6 May)		
Monday, 2 May		
a.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (conclusion)
Tuesday, 3 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Wednesday, 4 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Thursday, 5 May		
a.m. and p.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
a.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
p.m.	Item 9 (a)	Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration
	Item 10	Adoption of the report of the Conference

Closure of the Conference

Main Committee

First week (26-29 April)

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Election of officers	
	Organization of work	
	Item 9 (b)	Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources: Consideration of the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States
p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Wednesday, 27 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Thursday, 28 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Friday, 29 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 9 (b)	

Second week (2-4 May)

Monday, 2 May

a.m. and p.m. Item 9 (b) Continued

Tuesday, 3 May

a.m. and p.m. Item 9 (b) Continued

Wednesday, 4 May

a.m. Item 9 (b) Conclusion

p.m. Action on all outstanding matters

Completion of the work of the Committee

Notes

a/ Item 7 (b), entitled "Report of the Credentials Committee" will be scheduled for consideration by the Plenary at a date to be determined.

b/ Beginning on Tuesday, 26 April and until Monday, 2 May, a segment of the morning plenary meeting will be devoted to presentations by special guests on specific case-studies.

c/ The Plenary of the Conference may wish to establish a working group to consider this sub-item.